PSNERP Change Analysis Geodatabases

The Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership, lead by Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, provides to the public the data developed for the Puget Sound Nearshore General Investigation (GI) their investigation with the corresponding FGDC compliant metadata. These data are presented for computational efficiencies with currently available micro-computer technology. Data are organized by seven Puget Sound hydrographic/oceanographic sub-basins and Sound-wide. The team provides the data with the expectation that ecosystem restoration planners and scientists will find it useful for their analysis. The Puget Sound Nearshore GI, and its corresponding products including these datasets, was developed for planning Puget Sound ecosystem restoration and no other purpose. Comments are welcomed by the team and may be emailed to scott.w.campbell@usace.army.mil.

This database was developed to investigate the fundamental causes of ecosystem decline due to human change to natural nearshore processes along Puget Sound's shoreline. The Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project's (PSNERP) Nearshore Science Team (NST), designed a strategy for assessing the types and scale of nearshore change that: (1) could be documented comprehensively over the entire Puget Sound basin; (2) could be directly related to physical and ecological change in ecosystem-scale processes; (3) was spatially explicit; and (4) could be integrated within the NST's development of a geomorphic classification system of Puget Sound's shoreline features (Shipman 2008). To assemble the appropriate data, the Puget Sound Nearshore

Partnership canvassed restoration planners and scientists to learn what data would effectively meet these criteria. The group of scientists, engineers, restoration planners, and consultants that compose the Nearshore team examined numerous existing datasets from two broad time periods, the advent of United States territorial settlement (circa 1850-1880) and present-day (2000-2009).

Many datasets were not selected because either the data was redundant with other data that better informed the investigation, or because localized data were of inappropriate resolution or scale, or were not readily available for the entire Puget Sound marine shoreline and corresponding upland drainages. The selected data provides a basin-wide documentation of selected attributes that could have changed between the historic and current periods.

To learn more about the Nearshore Partnership's investigation, please visit http://pugetsoundnearshore.org/

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